IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: DAVIS   Previously Assigned Examiner: FIELDS
Parent Filed: August 21, 1998   Art Unit: 2153
Parent Serial No.: 09/137,851   Docket No.: 10972013-2
For: Status Polling Failover of Devices in a Distributed Network Management Hierarchy

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment accompanies filing of a Divisional Application of the above-identified application. Prior to examination thereof, please amend the Divisional Application as follows:

IN THE TITLE

Please substitute the following title for the title on page one of the specification:

STATUS POLLING FAILOVER OF DEVICES IN A DISTRIBUTED NETWORK MANAGEMENT HIERARCHY

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-15.

Please add the following new claims 21-25:

21.   (New Claim) A distributed computing environment, comprising:

Attorney Docket No. 10972013-2   1

a collection station of one or more collection stations of the distributed computing environment that is responsible for status polling a plurality of objects; and

a central control unit that upon receiving a manual failover event initiated by a user performs status polling of the plurality of objects in accordance with the manual failover event and that releases polling of the plurality of objects back to the collection station upon receiving a manual release event,

wherein when the collection station and a second collection station of the one or more collection stations are both responsible for polling the plurality of objects, the plurality of objects are polled by both the central control unit and the second collection station in response to said manual failover event.

22. (New Claim) The environment of claim 21, wherein the central control unit is a management station.

23. (New Claim) The environment of claim 21, wherein a network monitor program of the central control unit that monitors the one or more collections stations of the distributed computing environment performs status polling of the plurality of objects.

24. (New Claim) The environment of claim 23, wherein when the central control unit receives the manual failover event the network monitor program

receives a topology of the collection station, wherein the topology of the collection station is a list of the plurality of objects managed by the collection station and nodes and routings thereof.

25.   (New Claim) The environment of claim 24, wherein the list of the plurality of objects is determined by a filter.
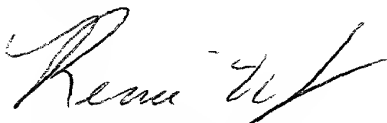
REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed in conjunction with a divisional application of serial number 09/137,851. Applicant has canceled original claims 1-15 and added new claims 21-25. Applicant believes that the claims define patentable subject matter. Newly added claims 21-25 are supported by the specification as originally filed and do not, therefore, constitute new matter. Claims 16-25 are currently pending in the application.

A first office action on the merits is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Michelle Larson
Reg. No. 36,193
221 East Church Street
Frederick, Maryland 21701
301-668-3072
301-668-3074 (fax)
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Attorney Docket No. 10972013-2   4

IN THE TITLE

Please amend the title of the specification on page one as follows:

[AUTOMATIC] STATUS POLLING FAILOVER OF DEVICES IN A DISTRIBUTED NETWORK MANAGEMENT HIERARCHY